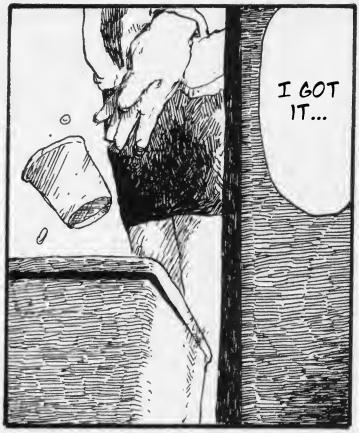
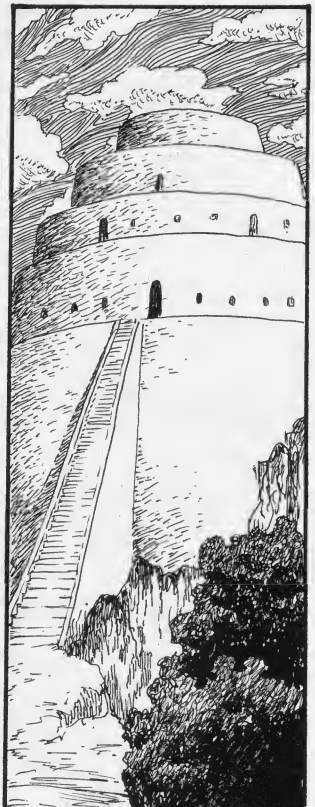
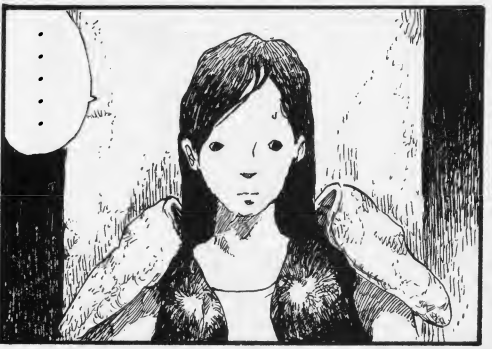

I GOT IT...

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH SUPERVISION HER FATHER HAS OVER HER. IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, IT'S POSSIBLE HE MIGHT FLEE...
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO OBTAIN HER LOCATION VIA CHAT WITHOUT REVEALING MY IDENTITY.

THE NIGHTMARE ARMY IS ATTACKING!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, YUKA!

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I'VE NEVER HEARD OF NIGHTMARES ATTACKING THIS ENCAMPMENT BEFORE.
IF WE DON'T REPEL THEM, THEY'LL SWALLOW US UP...
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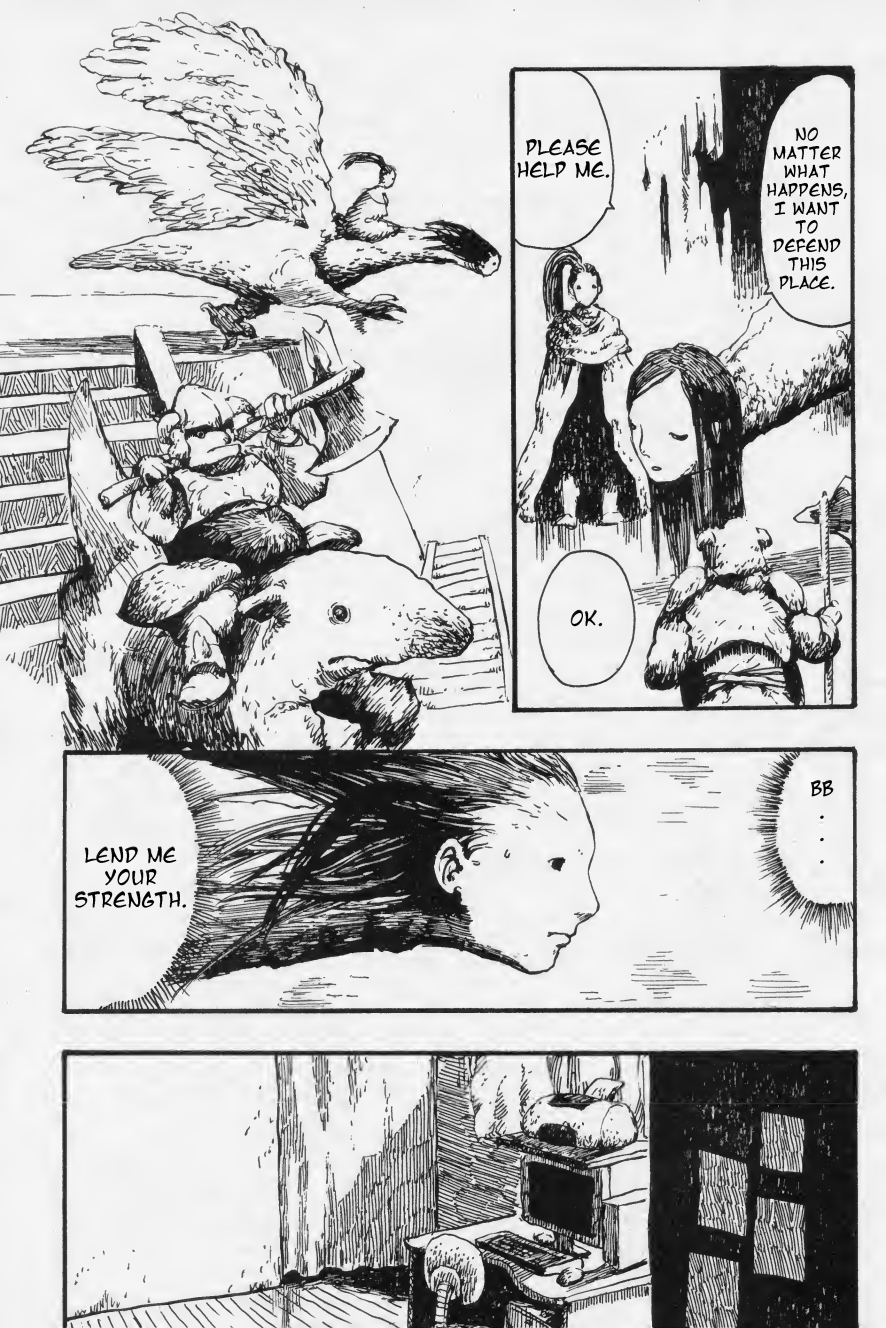
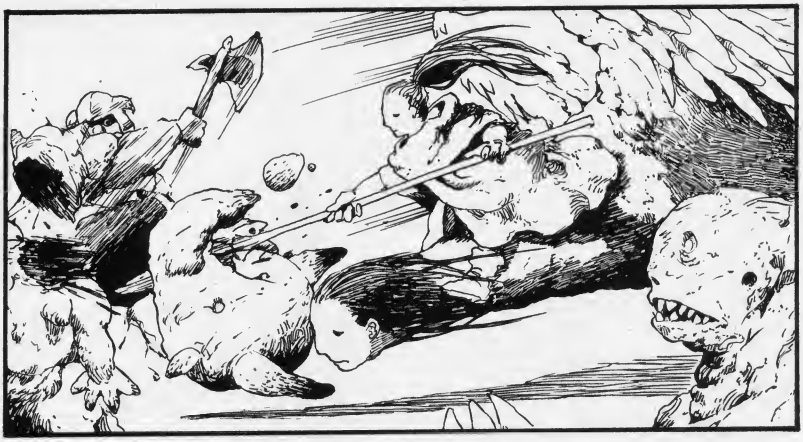
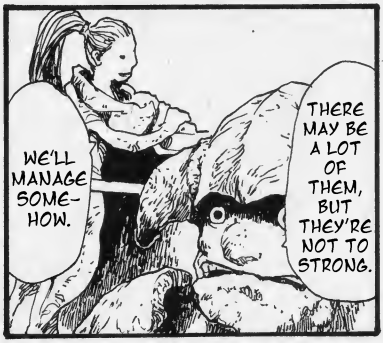
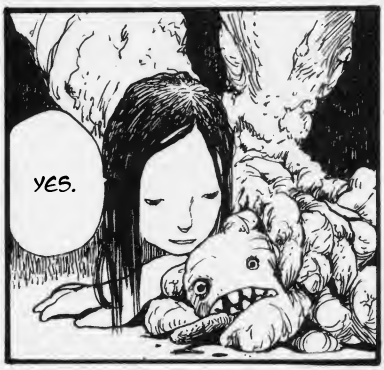

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WANT TO DEFEND THIS PLACE.
PLEASE HELP ME.
OK.
BB . . .
LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.

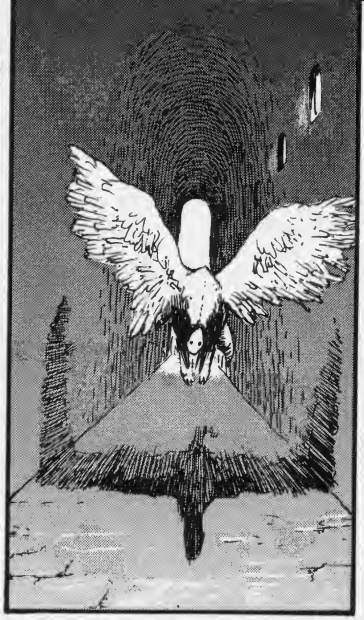


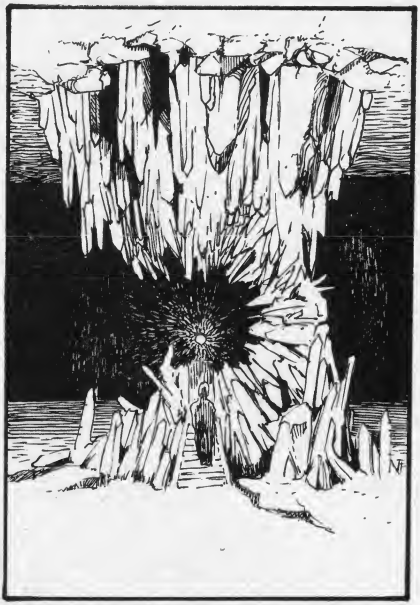
ONE OF THEM MADE IT INTO THE PALACE!
IT'LL BE BAD IF IT REACHES THE DREAM CENTER.

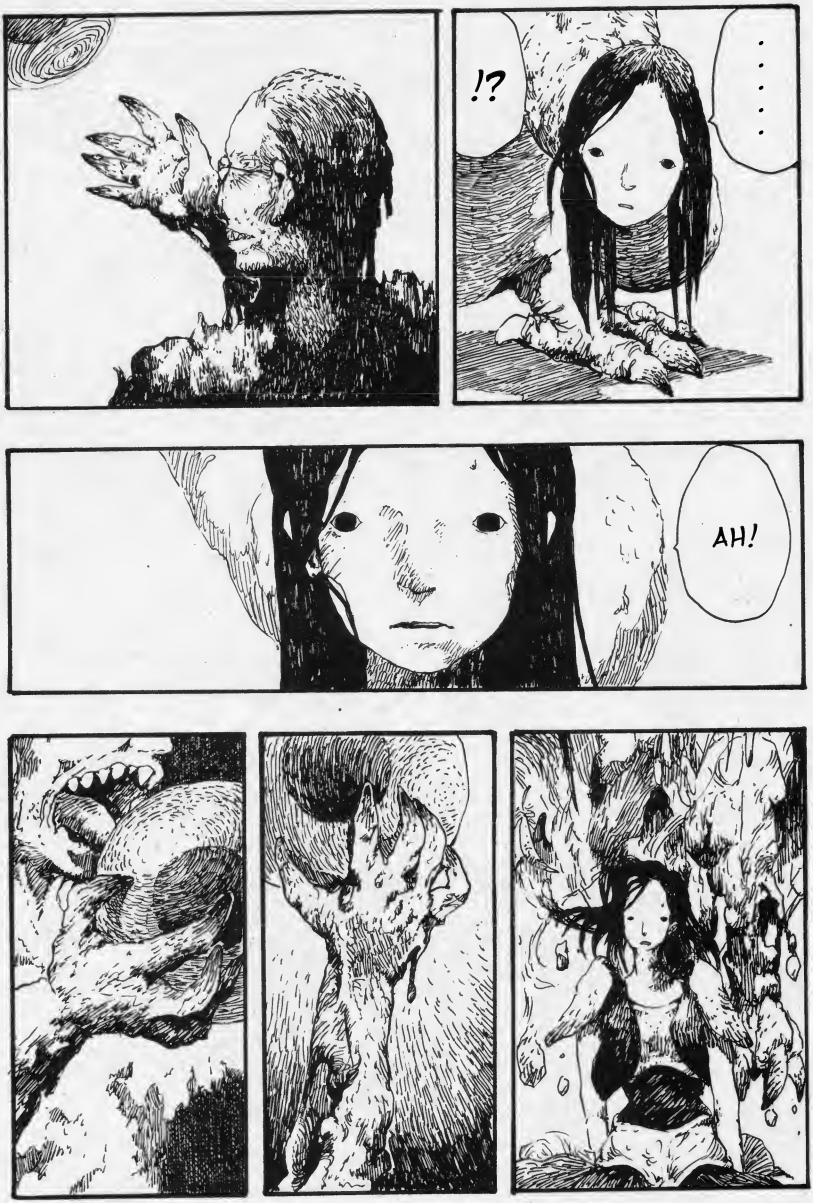

THERE MAY BE A LOT OF THEM, BUT THEY'RE NOT TO STRONG.
WE'LL MANAGE SOME-HOW.


YES.

I'LL GO.



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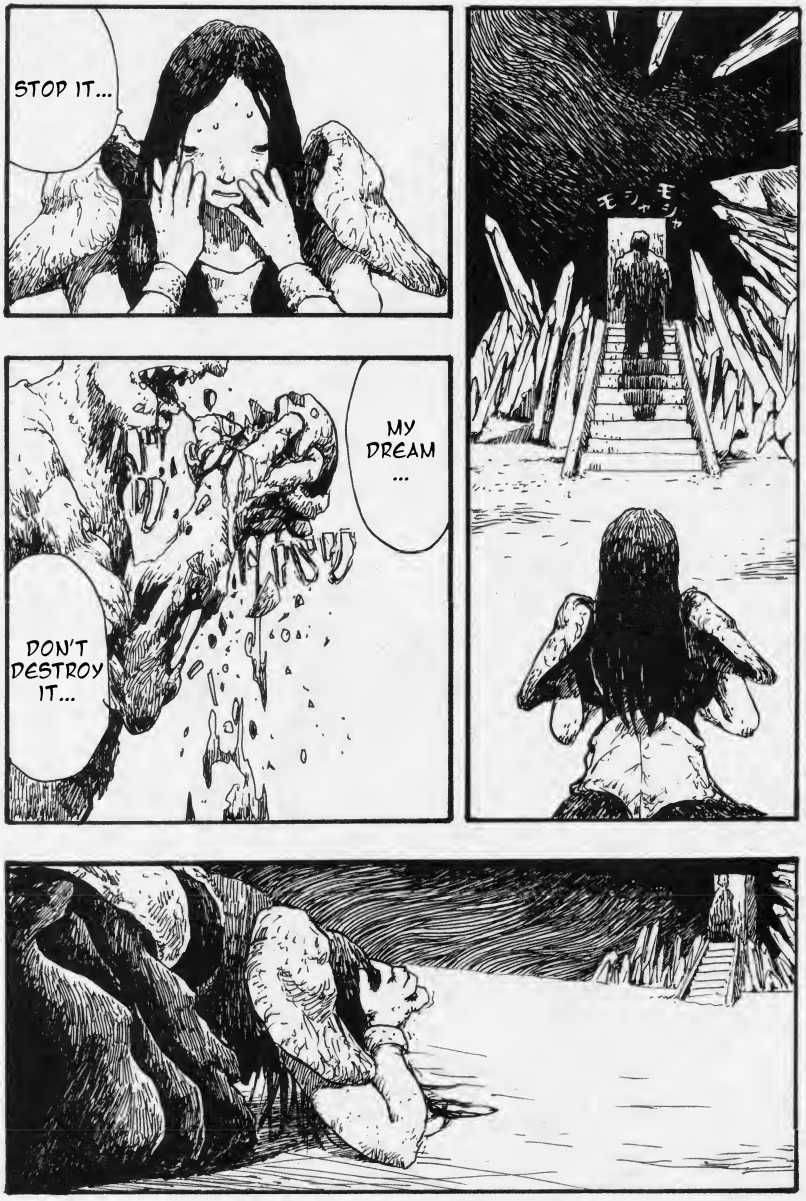
. . . . .
AH!


STOP IT...
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MY DREAM ...
DON'T DESTROY IT...

I CAN'T ESCAPE, CAN I?
I KNEW IT...

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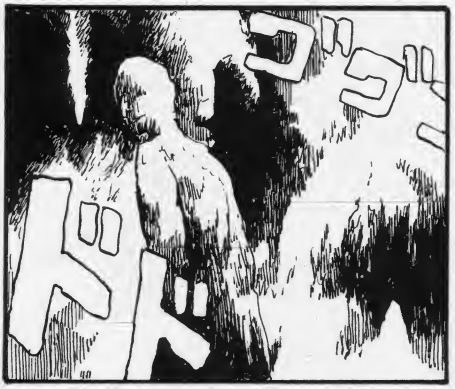
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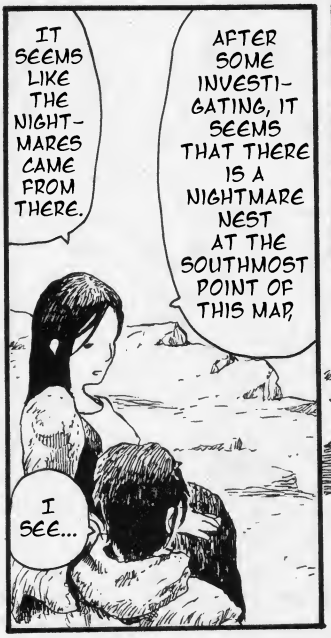
YO, BB!
SORRY, I HAD WORK YESTERDAY.
YUKA'S DREAM GOT SWALLOWED UP TOO...
WE GOT DONE IN BY A NIGHTMARE ATTACK...
BB!
AH!
IT'S A SHAME...
WHAT A WASTE... EVEN THOUGH THIS DREAM WAS SO MUCH MORE EXQUISITE THAT MOST DREAMS...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S JUST A GAME, AFTER ALL...

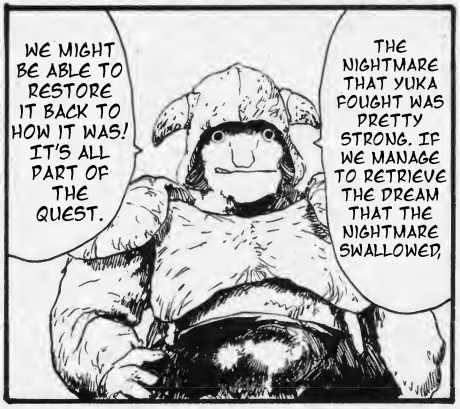
AH, UM...
PLEASE DON'T BE DEPR-ESSED.

I CAN JUST REBUILD IT AGAIN FROM SCRATCH.
YOU CAN ALSO USE CASH ITEMS TO REBUILD IT MORE EASILY..

HEY, YUKA, DIDN'T YOU MENTION THIS EARLIER?
EH?


AFTER SOME INVESTI-GATING, IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS A NIGHTMARE NEST AT THE SOUTHMOST POINT OF THIS MAP.
IT SEEMS LIKE THE NIGHT-MARES CAME FROM THERE.
I SEE...

THOSE NIGHT-MARES,
THEY FLEW FROM THE SOUTH...


WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESTORE IT BACK TO HOW IT WAS! IT'S ALL PART OF THE QUEST.
THE NIGHTMARE THAT YUKA FOUGHT WAS PRETTY STRONG. IF WE MANAGE TO RETRIEVE THE DREAM THAT THE NIGHTMARE SWALLOWED,

IT'S PROBABLY A NEW QUEST PROGRAM ...
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING HAPPE-NING

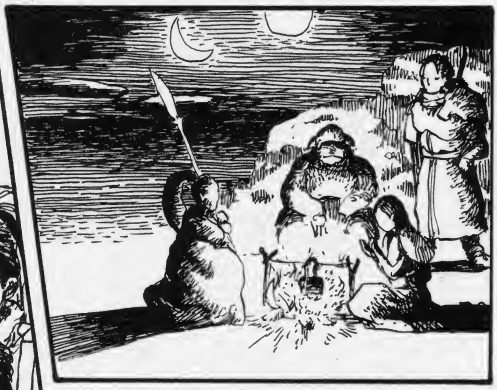
I SEE.

AND HERE I THOUGHT I HAD DONE EVERYTHING IN THIS GAME. I WAS GETTING READY TO QUIT!
LET'S GO, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE INTER-ESTING.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE A QUEST PUT UP A CHALLENGE.
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTTA MY MOUTH!

THANKS!

LET'S GO.
YEAH...



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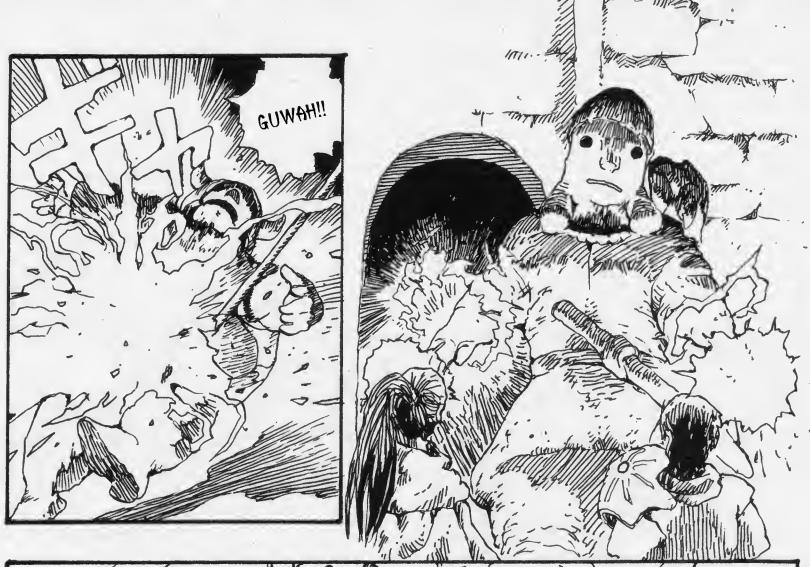
HELLO?
AH, MATSUDA-SAN.
DISCOVERED ANYTHING YET?
A HACKER MIGHT BE BEHIND THE SITUATION...
BUT SHE'S STILL AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT, RIGHT?
MAYBE YOU MADE A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE?
WE WERE WORKING WITH THE COMPUTER SPECIALIST DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE, BUT...
WHEN WE WERE PROBING THE SERVER TO DETERMINE PERSONAL INFORMATION AND LOCATION,
IT JUMPED TO AN OVERSEAS SERVER. IN THE END, WE DIDN'T MANAGE TO FIND OUT ANYTHING.

WE'RE INVESTI-GATING BOTH ONLINE AND IN THE REAL WORLD ON OUR END OF THINGS, BUT...
IF WE ASSUME THAT THE GIRL REALLY IS THAT CHARACTER IN-GAME,
THEN AT THIS POINT, THAT CHARACTER IS THE ONLY LINK WE HAVE TO THE GIRL.
BUT, ONE THING STILL BOTHERS ME.
IF SHE IS PLAYING ONLINE, DOESN'T THAT MEAN SHE HAS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?
SHE PROBABLY HAS HAD MANY CHANCES TO SEEK HELP VIA THE INTERNET WITHOUT HER FATHER KNOWING.
I WONDER WHY SHE CONTINUES PLAYING THE GAME CONTINUOUSLY EVER SINCE SHE DISAPPEARED.
ARE YOU REALLY SURE THAT PLAYER IS SHIZUKA-CHAN?
YEAH, SHE MIGHT BE A KID, BUT I FIND IT HARD TO UNDER-STAND HER ACTIONS...
THE THING THAT I FIND MOST DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT...
AFTER THE GIRL'S DISAPP-EARANCE,
THERE'S NOT BEEN EVIDENCE THAT YUKA HAS EVER LOGGED OUT.
YUKA

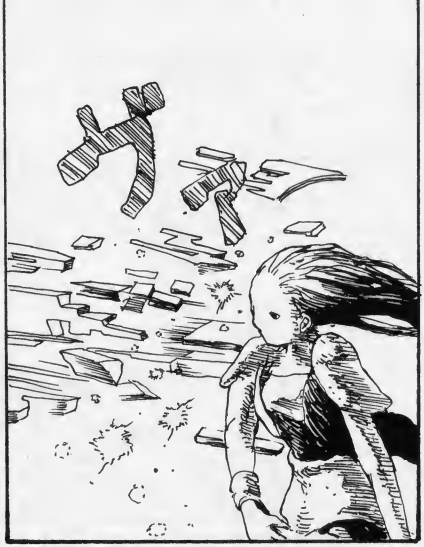
IT'S HER BIRTH-DAY.
BIRTHDAY?
HEY, CAN YOU SOMEHOW FIND HER BEFORE THE 27TH OF MAY?
EH, THAT'S STILL TWO WEEKS AWAY, RIGHT? WHY SPECIFICALLY BY THEN?
IN SHORT,
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE SAME THING COULD HAPPEN THIS YEAR, SO WE HAVE TO FIND HER BY THEN...
ええ
WHETHER IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT OR FOR SOME OTHER REASON, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE RECEIVES EVEN HARSHER ABUSE ON THAT DAY.
SEEMS LIKE HER FATHER IS THE KIND OF PERSON THAT REPEATEDLY TELLS THEIR OWN CHILD, "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU WERE NEVER BORN."
SHE'S BEEN SENT TO THE HOSPITABLE MULTIPLE TIMES RIGHT AFTER HER BIRTHDAY.
STILL, THAT'S TERRIBLE ...
ギュ
BIRTHDAYS SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST DAY OF THE YEAR FOR A CHILD.
THE CHILD THEN LOSES INTEREST IN THE HARSH REALITIES OF THE REAL WORLD AND ESCAPES IT TO LIVE IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD.
I'VE COME TO BELIEVE THAT WHEN A CHILD'S ONE AND ONLY PARENT CONTINUOUSLY TELLS THEM THAT THEY'RE WORTHLESS, THE CHILD THEN GROWS UP BELIEVING THAT TO BE TRUE.

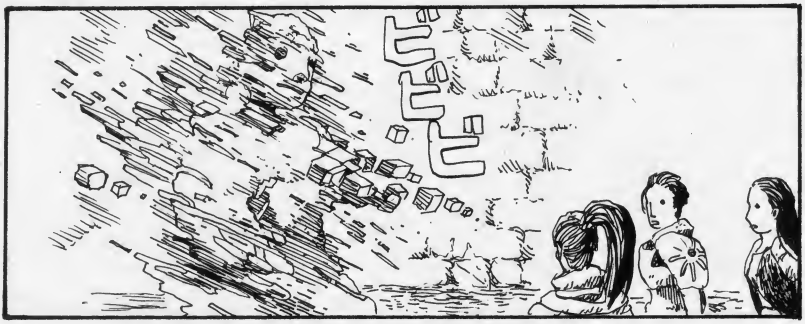

GUWAH!!

THIS GUY IS RIDICULOUSLY STRONG...
SHOULD WE REGROUP? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

AH!
YUKA-SAN!
SORRY, THE OTHER SIDE WAS A LOT OF TROUBLE.

HUH?

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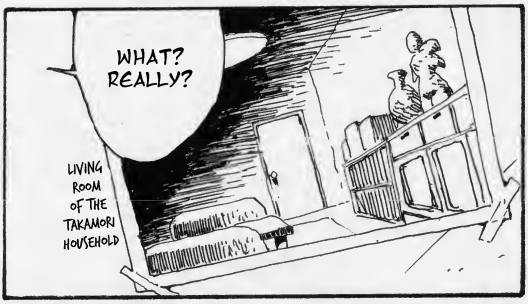
WHAT?
A BUG?

HM?

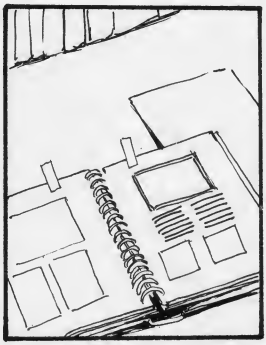
NOW I HAVE TO GO BACK AND REDO IT...
あみもの KNITTING
OH SHOOT, I MADE A MISTAKE.
WHAT'S THAT?
AH, JUST A LITTLE KNITTING.
OH, MATSUDA -SAN
HELLO.
NOT REALLY...
OH, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN KNITTING HUH?

WE'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING A LITTLE WEIRD...
RIGHT NOW, YOU AND SHIZUKA-CHAN ARE IN THIS DUNGEON, RIGHT?
YEAH, IT'S GIVING US A HARD TIME...
THAT'S WEIRD...
THAT PART OF THE GAME IS ACTUALLY BLANK.
ACCORDING TO THE GAME DEVELOPERS, IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE FOR ANYTHING TO BE THERE.
HUH...
PURURU♪
AH, SORRY. GIMME A MOMENT.


WHAT? REALLY?
LIVING ROOM OF THE TAKAMORI HOUSEHOLD

YES, THIS IS MATSUDA SPEAKING.

YES, I UNDERSTAND.



MAYBE I WAS ACTUALLY LOST INSIDE THE GIRL'S DREAMS.
EVEN THOUGH, I THOUGHT I WAS ONLY PLAYING A GAME,

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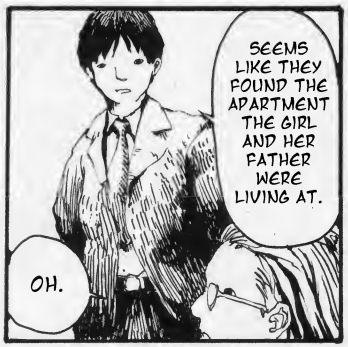
SEEMS LIKE THEY FOUND THE APARTMENT THE GIRL AND HER FATHER WERE LIVING AT.
OH.

YEAH, THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE.
WHAT?

I WONDER... I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS YET, BUT I'LL KNOW LATER.
THEN THE TWO OF THEM...

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
LATER THEN.

WE HAVE NO CLUE AS TO WHERE THEIR CURRENT DESTI-NATION IS, BUT...
THEY NEVER HAD FURNITURE DELIVERED NOR DID THEY HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THE NEIGH-BORS.

SEEMS LIKE THEY FIGURED OUT THE POLICE'S MOVEMENTS AND HAVE DISAPPEARED.

AFTER, EXAMINATION, IT SEEMS TO INDEED BE SHIZUKA-CHAN'S
THEY LEFT BEHIND TRACES OF BLOOD ON THE FLOOR.

IF WE DON'T FIND HER SOON, SHE MIGHT BE IN DANGER.
HER BIRTHDAY IS IN 3 DAYS...

YEAH.
WE FINALLY MADE IT...
. . .